Project meeting in Germany  
Welver-Dinker, typical rural area in Westfalia

From 11th to 12th December 2014 the ENWRA team visited Germany in the cold winter time in Westfalia.

Central idea of this meeting was to visit some best practise example in Lohne and Welver, to discuss about the next steps of the ENWRA Learning Partnership and the first results from the first half of the project.

For this we worked during the mornings in Dinker at “Ange’s Gasthof”, a rural restaurant and bar. Ange is a publican and hotelier who came back after an international carrier to her “roots” and reopened the bar of her parents. Now she leads a country-style restaurant with all the possibilities for family celebrations, bar, small conferences, Sunday music offerings, etc. The ENWRA group could perceive while working how competent and perfect Ange leads her Inn and how competent she prepared all necessary conditions for an international conference with all media, drinks and meals.

The project responsibles discussed with all participating “learners”, rural women from all participating countries about the lessons learnt and also about the visions. These first results are downloadable on the website (http://www.enwra.eu) .

Heather McLaughlin opened a blog about ENWRA. If this link is not working you can follow this blog from our website www.enwra.eu. Here you can find some pictures and videos from the different meetings.

During one afternoon the group visited farming houses and shops run by women in Lohne a little village nearby Dinker. We also visited Melanie Sander who transferred an old farming house into a business model for apartments and rentals.

The 2nd afternoon we followed the invitation of the mayor of Welver, Mr. Schumacher and

Rural women are like rain in the drought, like the hearth fire in winter, like a shady tree in the summer, like a railing on difficult trails.

Mrs. Jürgens, Equal Opportunities Commissioner at the Municipality of Welver

This project has been funded with support from the European Commission.

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heard some interesting information about the women in Germany and especially in the rural area of Welver-Dinker presented by Mrs. Jürgens (Equal Opportunities Commissioner at the Minicipality of Welver).

Publication in “Soester Anzeiger” about the meeting in Welver-Dinker
International project meeting
Lohne as a good example

Representants from different countries on visit / Life of rural women as theme

Lohne. Rural women that exist not only in Germany. As part of an EU project, therefore, is to promote international exchange, now a delegation was guest in Lohne, the village stands as examples for the whole of Germany.

It is about the preservation of cultural heritage, because that is agriculture with all the paraphernalia. It is about “strong women”, independence and economic survival and smart ideas. And in order to see the bigger picture. Dieter Schulze is Soester “Aborigine” residing in Werl, principal of the workshop vocational colleges in Unna and networker with contacts across Europe and instigator of the project. In this case, for “ENWRA” which means “European Network for Women in Rural Areas”. Rural women are to share their experiences, learn from each other, give impetus. Because the Lohner education scientist Melanie Sander told during her training as a social manager, the instructor and teacher Dieter Schulze about the project “Lohner Women Tour”. That was the reason that Lohne in this project has become a model village in Europe. Now attended an international project group the place. The experiences and impressions flow as a contribution from Germany in the report to the EU. Concretely, this means except the honour nothing initially, but Dieter Schulze said, that it is important that people get over and stay in touch across borders. "I was in Northern Ireland with Dieter Schulze", Melanie Sander told impressed. The sale of homemade jams and juices went there together with author readings. Combining a smart idea to introduce yourself, business and culture, said Melanie Sander. "There can be learned". In Cyprus, the situation is different, there is education a major problem, added Schulze. Every country has own problems and advantages.

Visited the participants from Turkey, Cyprus, Hungary, Spain, Poland and Germany the bull fattening farm by Andreas Buckemüller junior. 32 bulls are stabled there currently. Heike Buckemüller reported from the history of the farm, which is now operated as a sideline. On the farm Sander, founded in 1614, the guests learned another development: there emerged apartments, where once pigs...
were fattened. "It's the project about the question of structures, therefore, how to prevent the death of the farms and how you can preserve life on the land as a cultural heritage," Schulze explained while enjoying homemade waffles and crispy biscuits from Sanders kitchen.

**Welfare dinner in “Ange’s Gasthof”**

“Rural area meets international conference”

On Friday evening the welfare dinner took place. It started with some presentations by the Förderverein (support association) of the Primary School Borgeln, a country-side-school by Kirsten Loer, a “job” of rural women in rural areas, the “Young Rural Youth of Dinker” (Lukas Brüggemann), the “Young Rural Women from Lohne” (Melanie Sander) and also the “Rural women of Dinker” (Margarete Wiemer). Then the Westfalian-International buffet open and during the whole evening the “Men’s Choir” sang a lot of songs from the German Romantic period and some international songs for the conference.